In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method of activating a membrane switch, comprising the steps of:

a) spacing a magnet and an actuator a distance apart;

b) positioning a membrane switch in proximity to the magnet and actuator; and

c) reducing the distance between the magnet and actuator and causing a magnetic force to actuate the membrane switch.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the membrane switch includes first and second layers, the step of positioning the membrane switch in proximity to the magnet and actuator comprises positioning at least one of the layers between the magnet and the actuator and the magnetic force results in the first and second layers to be pressed together.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including positioning the actuator within one of the first and second layers.

4-7. (Withdrawn).

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reducing the distance between the magnet and actuator comprises moving the magnet within a magnetic range of the actuator.

9. (Withdrawn).

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of causing the magnetic force to actuate the membrane switch results in movement of both the magnet and actuator.

11. (Original) A method of activating a membrane switch comprising the steps of:

a) positioning at least a first layer of a membrane switch between a magnet and a magnetically-affected actuator;

b) moving at least one of the magnet and actuator to reduce a distance therebetween;

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c) magnetically drawing the magnet and actuator towards one another thereby forcing the first layer and a membrane switch second layer together; and

d) maintaining a distance between the magnet and actuator.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the actuator is attached to the second layer and magnetically drawing the magnet and actuator towards one another causes the first and second layers to contact.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the magnet is attached to the second layer and magnetically drawing the magnet and actuator towards one another causes the first and second layers to contact.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of moving at least one of the magnet and actuator to reduce a distance therebetween includes moving the magnet within a magnetic range of the actuator.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of moving at least one of the magnet and actuator to reduce a distance therebetween includes moving the actuator within a magnetic range of the magnet.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the force of contacting the first and second layers together is equal to the magnetic force between the actuator and magnet.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second layers are positioned between the magnet and actuator.

18-20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A fuel dispenser comprising:

a) an outer housing;

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b) an input device associated with said outer housing to receive a fuel purchase request;

c) at least one nozzle and hose assembly to distribute fuel; and

d) at least one membrane switch associated with said outer housing, each of said at least one membrane switch having an outer surface contacted by a user to move a magnet and actuator within a magnetic range thereby actuating said membrane switch.

22. (Original) The fuel dispenser of claim 21, wherein said at least one membrane switch comprises first and second layers with at least one of said layers being positioned between said magnet and said actuator.

23. (Withdrawn).

24. (Original) The fuel dispenser of claim 21, wherein said input device is selected from the group consisting essentially of soft keys, and a keypad.

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